**READING INTO WRITING:**

*AN INVESTIGATION OF WRITERS’ READING HABITS BY WRITERS THEMSELVES*

**Connecting Reading and Writing Through a Passage-Based Paper\***

*Instructor*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Student*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You will encounter a version of this assignment throughout your academic career—in essay tests, research papers, and other source-based writing, in English as well as other courses. We will repeat this assignment for practice and the opportunity to develop and hone your skills and strategies for accomplishing this kind of writing as we read and write our way through the course. (Time—30-45 minutes)

Step 1—Select the passage

Choose a short passage (3-5 sentences) from the assigned reading that you find especially important, interesting, provocative, or even a little puzzling. Be prepared to discuss this passage and explain why you chose it.

Step 2—Transcribe the passage

First, copy the passage, paying attention to spelling and punctuation and avoiding “texting” symbols and abbreviations. Frame the passage with an attributive phrase to provide context, and include the page number in a parenthetical citation.

Step 3—Study the passage

Read and reread the passage, paying attention to the kinds of words—their length, tone, and meaning—the length and structure of sentences, the sort of “voice” you hear in your mind as you read. Your reactions, responses, ideas, and interpretations about these textual elements are precisely what you will write about.

Step 4—Explain the passage

Based on your observations in Step 3, explain the meaning of the passage in context. Compose a one-sentence thesis stating how the passage contributes to a reader’s understanding and appreciation of the whole text.

Step 5 (optional)

Share your findings with a partner or in small group. Help each other to see something you might have missed on your own.

Step 6—Write the Paper

Compose a one-two-page essay based on your annotations from Steps 4 and 5. Include Step 2. Be prepared to present your paper to classmates.